



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Veterans Retraining Assistance Program provides new educational funding**

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – The State of Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs announced a new federal program intended to help train and return Alaska's veterans to the workforce.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) offers education benefits to eligible veterans ages 35-60 and will take effect July 1, 2012.

VRAP is available for those veterans who are:

- at least age 35 but no older than 60 years old
- unemployed
- discharged other than dishonorable
- ineligible for other VA education benefits or in receipt of VA compensation because of unemployability
- not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

"We want nothing more than to put Alaska's veterans to work," said Verdie Bowen, director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Alaska. "With the current economic conditions, this piece of legislation is perfectly timed to provide a funding source to ease the financial burden for those eligible so that they may retrain and find new employment opportunities."

VRAP will pay 12 months of payments equivalent to the prevailing Montgomery GI Bill monthly rate for eligible veterans enrolled in an approved program of study. The Department of Labor will provide employment assistance to every veteran who participates, upon completion of the program.

VRAP is just one section of the comprehensive "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011" signed into law November 2011 by President Barack Obama, aimed at ending veteran unemployment. The program is available to 45,000 participants nationwide from July 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2012, and 54,000 participants from Oct. 1, 2012, to March 31, 2014.

Visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/VRAP> to learn more and read the frequently asked questions about VRAP. More details about VRAP, including information on how to apply, will be published at [www.gibill.gov](http://www.gibill.gov) as they become available.

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